

Heart to Heart with the Living God

Psalm 78

"They did not remember his power—the day he redeemed them from the oppressor." Ps. 78:42

Day 1: Read Psalm 78.

1. In light of the history this psalm rehearses, why does Asaph plead with the people to hear his teaching and listen to his words? (vv. 7, 9)
2. What is the current generation to tell the next generation? Why?
3. Why are these stories of Israel's history still important for us today? (1 Cor. 10:1-12; Heb. 2:1-4)

Day 2: Read Psalm 78:9-33.

A "parable" (v.2) is a story about one part of life (in this case historical) that brings spiritual light to another part of life. The first parable in this psalm is about the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt and their desert wanderings.

4. List the ways that God visibly provided for the Israelites in the desert. (vv. 12-16; 23-29)
5. List Israel's responses to God's provision? (vv. 17-20) What attitudes of the heart do these actions reveal? (vv. 22, 32; Lk. 6:45)
6. What was the result of their unbelief and rebellion against God? (vv. 21, 31-34)

Day 3: Read Psalm 78:34-39.

7. What does true repentance involve? (Hos.5:15—6:6; 14:1-3; Jas.4: 7-10)

How does the repentance of the Israelites fall short of this? (vv. 36-37; Mt. 15:7-9)

8. What amazing description of God are we given in the midst of Israel's unfaithfulness? (vv.38, 39)

Day 4: Read Psalm 78:40-58.

The second parable is of the Israelite's miraculous deliverance from slavery in Egypt to settling in the land God promised to them.

9. a. How did God display his power in Egypt? (vv. 44-51)

b. How did God display his mercy and power toward the Israelites? (vv. 52-55)

c. What had Israel done to be worthy of God's favor? (Dt. 7:7-8)

10. What was Israel's response to God's intentional and steadfast love for them? (vv. 56-58)

Day 5: Read Psalm 78.

11. Verses 56 to 58 refer to a generation of Israelites living well after the settling of the Promised Land. How is this generation "like their fathers" (v. 57)? (vv. 8, 56-58)

12. How did God punish this new generation? (vv. 59-64)

13. Because of their sin God rejects the prominent tribe of Ephraim. Instead God continues His story of redemption through the tribe of Judah by choosing David to be king. (Acts 13:22-23)

How is David's leadership different from that of the "men of Ephraim" (v. 9)?

Men of Ephraim		David	
v. 9		Ps. 18:37	
v. 10		Ps. 18:21-23	
vv. 11, 41-43		Ps. 18:46-49	
vv. 36-37		v. 72	

14. What is the leadership of our true Shepherd, the Son of David, like? (John 10:11-16; Heb. 8:8-12)

15. Psalm 78 has shown God's miraculous redemption, Israel's rebellion, and God's restrained wrath. Take a moment to consider your own redemption by reading Ephesians 2:11-13.

How will remembering what was involved in your redemption help you this week as you face a trial or struggle with sin? (Heb. 12:1-3)